Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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R 090918Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5981 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMCONSUL HONG KONG USLO PEKING AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 0361

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: PFOR, PINS, JA, CB

SUBJ: JAPAN-CAMBODIA RELATIONS

1. FONOFF BELIEVES A MORE FRUITFUL CHANNEL FOR JAPAN TO PHNOM PENH MAY BE IN HANOI RATHER THAN PEKING. FIRST SE ASIA DEPDIVDIR TSUKADA, WHO RECENTLY VISITED HANOI, TOLD US THAT JAPANESE CHARGE IN HANOI IMAGAWA HAS BEEN PLEASED AND VERY SURPRISED THAT CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR SIENG AN (PHONETIC) HAS BEEN QUITE FRIENDLY. AMB. SIENG AN, TSUKADA SAID IS DOYEN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, VERY HIGH IN TOP ECHELON OF GRUNK LEADERSHIP, AND CLOSE TO IENG SARY. LIKE IENG SARY, SIENG AN HAS BEEN REGARRDED AS STRONGLY PRO-HANOI, BUT IMAGAWA HAS BEEN TREATED TO FREQUENT CRITICISM OF THE VIETNAMESE BY SIENG AN. RAPPORT MAY STEM PARTLY FROM FACT THAT IMAGAWA SPENT EIGHT YEARS IN PHNOM PENH AND IS FLUENT IN CAMBODIAN.

2. TSUKADA, WHO VISITED PEKING AFTER HANOI, SAID THAT ATTEMPTS TO CULTIVATE RELATIONS WITH THE CAMBODIANS IN PEKING BY AMB. OGAWA HAVE GOTTEN NO WHERE. AS RESULT, FONOFF IS CONSIDERING USING THE HANOI CONNECTION TO TRY TO IMPROVE TIES WITH PHNOM PENH. HODGSON

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